

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing kiosk service offerings comprising:
 - configuring a kiosk to provide electronic services over short-range radio communications links to wireless devices in a personal area network (PAN), said kiosk also configured to communicate over an existing physical communications link medium;
 - establishing a short-range radio communications link with a wireless device in said PAN;
 - retrieving selected electronic services over said existing physical communications link medium; and,
 - delivering said retrieved selected electronic services to said wireless device in said PAN over said short-range radio communications link.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a short-range radio communications link with said wireless device in said PAN comprises:
 - establishing a BLUETOOTH-based communications link with said wireless device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said configuring step comprises:
 - retrofitting an existing kiosk both with a short-range radio frequency communications system, and with a host computing device for selectively retrieving electronic services over said existing physical communications link medium, and for delivering selected electronic services to said wireless devices in said PAN.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said existing physical communications link medium is selected from the group consisting of a telephone network communications link and a data communications link.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of retrieving specified electronic
2 services over said existing communications network comprises retrieving electronic
3 messages from an electronic mail server communicatively linked to said kiosk over said
4 existing physical communications link medium.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of retrieving specified electronic
2 services over said existing physical communications link medium comprises retrieving
3 an application from an application service provider (ASP) communicatively linked to
4 said kiosk over said existing physical communications link medium.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein said step of delivering said retrieved specified
2 electronic services to said wireless device in said PAN over said short-range radio
3 communications link comprises delivering said retrieved electronic mail to an electronic
4 mail client in said wireless device.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of delivering said retrieved specified
2 electronic services to said wireless device in said PAN over said short-range radio
3 communications link comprises delivering said retrieved application for execution in
4 said wireless device.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining if said specified electronic services wholly reside in said kiosk; and,
3 if it is determined that said specified electronic services wholly reside in said
4 kiosk, delivering said specified electronic services to said wireless device in said PAN
5 without retrieving said specified electronic services over said existing physical
6 communications link medium.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 determining if components of said specified electronic services reside in said
3 kiosk; and,
4 delivering said components determined to reside in said kiosk to said wireless
5 device while retrieving components not residing in said kiosk over said existing physical
6 communications link medium.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of delivering said retrieved specified
2 electronic services to said wireless device in said PAN over said short-range radio
3 communications link comprises delivering retrieved components of said specified
4 electronic services to said wireless device while retrieving remaining components of
5 said specified electronic services.

1 12. A kiosk for distributing electronic services to wireless devices in a PAN
2 comprising:

3 an kiosk configured to communicate with a communications network over an
4 existing physical communications link medium;

5 a network communications client for communicating with servers in said
6 communications network;

7 a short-range radio communications system for communicating with wireless
8 devices in the PAN; and,

9 a list of electronic services which can be distributed to wireless devices in the
10 PAN, said electronics services in said list residing locally in said kiosk and remotely in
11 said servers in said communications network.

1 13. The kiosk of claim 12, wherein said short-range radio communications system
2 comprises:

3 a short-range radio communications system configured in accordance with
4 BLUETOOTH specifications.

1 14. The kiosk of claim 12, wherein said kiosk is selected from the group consisting of
2 a public telephone, a gasoline station island, an airline check-in desk, a ticketing booth,
3 a retail check-out counter, a toll booth, and an automatic teller machine.

1 15. The kiosk of claim 12, wherein said physical communications link medium is
2 selected from the group consisting of a telephone network communications link and a
3 data communications link.

1 16. The kiosk of claim 12, wherein said server is an application server.

1 17. The kiosk of claim 12, wherein said communications network is an Internet.

1 18. A method for delivering electronic services in a personal area network (PAN)
2 comprising:

3 providing a kiosk in a publicly traversable area, said kiosk configured to deliver
4 electronic services over short-range radio communications links to wireless devices in a
5 personal area network (PAN), said existing kiosk also configured to communicate over
6 an existing physical communications link medium;

7 establishing a PAN in said publicly traversable area;

8 selectably retrieving electronic services through said existing physical
9 communications link medium into said kiosk; and,

10 delivering said retrieved selected electronic services to wireless devices in said
11 PAN over said short-range radio communications link.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said step of establishing a PAN in said publicly
2 traversable area comprises:

3 establishing a BLUETOOTH-based PAN with wireless devices in said publicly
4 traversable area.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing a kiosk comprises:
retrofitting an existing kiosk both with a short-range radio frequency
communications system, and with a host computing device for selectively retrieving
electronic services over said existing physical communications link medium, and for
delivering selected electronic services to said wireless devices in said PAN; and,
activating said retrofitted kiosk in said publicly traversable area.